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## THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC 2742-83  
12 April 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Special Assistant to the Director for Interdepartmental Affairs

FROM: Constantine C. Menges  
National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

SUBJECT: Subjects for your meetings with Judge Clark (Wednesday, 13 April 1983) and Secretary Schultz (Friday, 15 April 1983)

The Need for a More Active US Diplomatic Effort to Maintain and Build International Support in Central America.

1. The international propaganda campaign of the Sandinistas-aided by Cuba and the Soviet bloc-produced 105 votes for its current seat in the United Nations and 109 delegations for the recent Non-Alignment Movement Conference. A gathering anti-communist and anti-Castro Latin American consensus during 1981 has been fading.

2. A number of recent reports highlight the continuing movement of important regional countries away from the October 1982 San Jose positions on Central America:

- Weekend of 9 - 10 April 1983: President Betancur of Colombia visited Venezuela, Mexico and Panama to encourage support for what I judge to be an ambiguous and essentially negative negotiating process. [ ] 25X1
- 11 April 1983: The Foreign Ministers of Mexico, Columbia, Panama, and Venezuela met in Panama (repeating the January 1983 Contadora meeting). [ ] 25X1
- 11 April 1983: Nicaraguan Foreign Minister D'Escato joined the four foreign ministers in Panama. [ ] 25X1
- 11 April 1983: Sandinista directorate official Ruiz arrived in Mexico City to meet with President de la Madrid. [ ] 25X1

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-- Two Cuban officials are currently meeting with the Costa Rican Vice President. [REDACTED] 25X1

-- US Embassy San Jose reports that Costa Rican President Monge will join Panama and Colombia in urging talks between Nicaragua and Honduras. [REDACTED] 25X1

3. In the OAS, Honduras has presented a resolution which we support calling for the Honduran/Nicaraguan conflict to be dealt with under OAS auspices (not in the UN). [REDACTED] State tell me that the latest vote count shows five countries opposed (Nicaragua, Granada, Suriname, Bolivia, and Guyana) and eight abstaining (Mexico, Columbia, Panama, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic) with eleven on our side. This should be contrasted with the 19 to 0 and 22 to 3 OAS votes in the December 1981 - January 1982 period on comparable issues. I present this much detail to illustrate the results of the diplomatic trend in the region against our friends and positions which I mentioned to you some months ago. The action implications for Judge Clark and Secretary Schultz could include the following: 25X1

a. Determining what diplomatic persuasive efforts we have made in recent weeks (I am told these are relatively few).

b. Requesting that State immediately undertake a high level persuasive effort to bring about: (1) a more favorable OAS vote on the Honduran resolution; (2) preventing the Mexican-style "Contadora position" from becoming the dominant regional diplomatic trend concerning Central America. 25X1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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25X1

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Constantine C. Menges

Attachments:  
As stated

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